

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 6, 2003

MPDC JOINS PROGRAM TO MAKE EMERGENCY CELL PHONES AVAILABLE TO CITIZEN PATROLS AND OTHER DC RESIDENTS

The MPDC is joining with police departments and sheriff's offices from Maryland, Virginia and the District in forming a coalition to help collect unwanted cell phones to be converted into 9-1-1 emergency service phones for use by residents. The program is called "Secure the Call" and is being led by a non-profit organization by the same name based in Greenbelt, Md. Any used cell phone can be programmed to dial 9-1-1—and, in the District of Columbia, 3-1-1 for police non-emergencies—even if the phone is not part of a wireless carrier's network. Secure the Call will clean, refurbish and reprogram the unwanted cell phones collected under the program. Approximately 70 percent of the phones will be distributed back to the community through the MPDC and other coalition partners. The other 30 percent will be sold to the recycled phones market to pay for the reprogramming of the donated phones. Cell phone collection boxes are being placed in all MPDC district stations and substations. In addition, the Department's Community Outreach Section will be coordinating the distribution of 9-1-1/3-1-1 cell phones back to the community, with an emphasis on citizen patrol and Neighborhood Watch participants, as well as senior citizens, domestic violence victims and other individuals and organizations that could benefit from the phones. Individuals interested in donating a phone or applying to receive a phone may contact Community Outreach at (202) 727-0783.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2121>
- ① More details about the MPDC's participation in Secure the Call can be found at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/stc_dc.shtml
- ① Interested in learning more about Secure the Call? Visit:
<http://www.givecellphones.com>

CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF MPDC'S GAY AND LESBIAN LIAISON UNIT

Chief Ramsey this past week announced the expansion of the MPDC's three-year-old Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU), with the addition of two full-time sworn officers and one volunteer Reserve officer. Joining the GLLU effective June 1 are Officer Juanita Foreman, a 13-year veteran of the MPDC, and Officer Zunnobia Hakim, who joined the Department in 2002. Also newly assigned to the GLLU is MPDC Reserve Officer Clark Ray, whose full-time job is serving as the Neighborhood Services Coordinator for Ward 2. The GLLU is led by Sergeant Brett Parson and includes Officers Joe Morquecho and Kelly McMurphy (part-time), Reserve Officers Rob Edwards, Vince Micone and Guy Whitney, and citizen volunteers Tomi Finkle, Buckley Jeppson and Sterling Spangler. Created by Chief Ramsey in June 2000, the GLLU serves the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) communities in the Washington Metropolitan area and within the MPDC. In addition to providing 24-hour police response to members of the GLBT communities and the MPDC, the GLLU advises the Chief on issues affecting the GLBT communities, represents the MPDC at community events, civic meetings, government functions and related events, serves on DC's Hate Crimes Task Force, and conducts outreach and training for gay-owned/operated businesses, corporations, associations and other groups. The GLLU also provides support and assistance with law enforcement investigations that involve members of the GLBT communities, and it offers training to members of the community and the MPDC.

- ① Read more about the expansion at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2116>
- ① The GLLU is accessible via telephone (202-727-5427), TTY (202-347-8164), pager (1-877-495-5995) and gayliaisondc@hotmail.com.
- ① Detailed information is also available on the unit's website
<http://www.gaydc.net/gllu/>

CITYWIDE SUBSTANCE ABUSE STRATEGY RELEASED BY INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRLED BY THE MPDC

Mayor Williams this week announced the release of the first Citywide Comprehensive Substance Abuse Strategy for public comment. This comprehensive plan represents two years of work by 14 District government agencies that make up the Mayor's Interagency Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Control, which is co-chaired by the Department of Health's Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA) and the MPDC. The proposed strategy focuses on three goals to be achieved by 2010: 1) reducing the city's addicted population to 25,000 from an estimated baseline of 60,000; 2) decreasing the social cost of substance abuse in the District by \$300 million from an estimated \$1.2 billion, and 3) reducing by 20 percent the overall rates of substance use among District youth aged 12 to 17, while increasing the average age of initial use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana by one year. Members of the Mayor's Task Force will broadly distribute the strategy to the community during the month of June. Input from citizens and stakeholders will be considered prior to finalizing the plan.

CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES COMMAND REASSIGNMENTS

Chief Ramsey has announced a number of command reassignments designed to strengthen MPDC leadership and effectiveness. The following changes took effect on June 1. Commander Larry McCoy is reassigned as Commander of the Third District from Commander of the Fourth District. Inspector Hilton Burton is reassigned from commanding officer of the Major Narcotics Branch to Acting Commander of 4D. Commander Mark Beach is reassigned as the Commander of the Major Narcotics Branch. Joshua Ederheimer is reassigned as captain serving as the deputy director of the Department's Training Academy. Keith Williams, is promoted to the rank of Inspector in charge of the First District substation (1D-1). He was previously director of the Evidence Control Branch, which is now led by Lt. Derek Gray.

NEWS & NOTES

Public Input on Proposed PSA Boundaries. The MPDC continues to seek public comment on the proposed changes to the Police Service Area boundaries. Comments may also be submitted via letter or email. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2091>.

Use of Force Reports. The MPDC's Civil Rights and Force Investigations Division has published its latest quarterly reports on use of force within the MPDC. Reports on the use of both deadly force and less-than-lethal force are available at http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/citizencomplaints/crfid_reports.shtm.

Drug Free Zones. Drug free zones are in effect this weekend in the First, Third and Seventh Police Districts. Next weekend, drug free zones are tentatively planned for targeted locations in the Fourth and Fifth Districts. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>.

Council Hearing on Chief of Police Compensation. The DC Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 17, to consider the compensation portion of the new contract Chief Ramsey has signed with the District. Individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to testify are requested to telephone Aretha Latta, Administrative Assistant to the Committee of the Whole, at 724-8196, by e-mail at alatta@dccouncil.washington.dc.us, or by fax at 202-724-7139. Written statements sent to the Council Secretary are also encouraged.

MPDC Career Fair. The MPDC will hold a day-long Career Fair on Saturday, June 28, at the new Washington Convention Center, for individuals interested in exploring an exciting career with the MPDC. Interested applicants may also apply online any time at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>
- ① A copy of the entire draft strategy is available on the Department of Health's website at:
http://doh.dc.gov/services/administration_offices/apr/public_comment_draft.shtm
- ① Read more about the reassignments at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=211>
- ① For information on how to contact all of the MPDC's major organizational units, visit the Directory on the MPDC website:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/contact/telephonedir.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 6/6/03)

- 2003: 106
- 2002: 92
- % Change: +10.4%
- Arrests (week ending 5/31/03)

- Total: 708
- Drugs: 94
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 26
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 20

Firearm Recoveries (as of 6/3/03)

- Total: 810
- June 11
- Traffic Fatalities (as of 6/3/03)

- 2003: 22
- 2002: 27
- % Change: -18.5%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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